

## CHAPTER 108

MINK, MUSKRAT, RACCOON, BADGER, OPOSSUM, WEASEL,  
STRIPED SKUNK, FOX (RED AND GRAY), BEAVER, COYOTE, RIVER OTTER,  
BOBCAT, GRAY (TIMBER) WOLF AND SPOTTED SKUNK SEASONS

[Prior to 12/31/86, Conservation Commission[290] Ch 104]

**571—108.1(481A) Mink, muskrat and weasel.** Open season for the taking of mink, muskrat and weasel shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

**108.1(1) *Molesting or disturbing muskrat houses.*** Any department of natural resources officer may permit trappers to molest or disturb muskrat houses on specific state game management areas as provided in Iowa Code section 481A.90, after finding that muskrats are causing excessive damage by destroying the vegetation essential to the welfare of a marsh and after so posting the area.

**108.1(2) *Game management areas.*** Open season for taking muskrats on certain state game management areas, certain federal national wildlife refuges, and certain county conservation board areas, only where approved by the wildlife bureau and posted accordingly, shall be from 8 a.m. the day after the regular muskrat trapping season ends until April 15. The use of leg-hold traps during this season is prohibited unless each trap is placed completely inside a muskrat house. No bag or possession limit.

**571—108.2(481A) Raccoon, badger, opossum and striped skunk.** Open season for the taking of raccoon, badger, opossum, and striped skunk shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

**571—108.3(481A) Red and gray fox.** Open season for the taking of red and gray fox shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

**571—108.4(481A) Beaver.** Open season for the taking of beaver shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through April 15 of succeeding year. No bag or possession limit.

**571—108.5(481A) Coyote.**

**108.5(1) *Hunting.*** Continuous open season. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit.

**108.5(2) *Trapping.*** Open season for trapping coyote shall be 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through January 31 of succeeding year. Entire state open. No bag or possession limit. Any conservation officer or wildlife biologist may authorize a landowner, tenant or designee to trap coyotes causing damage outside the established trapping season dates.

**571—108.6(481A) Bobcat, gray (timber) wolf, and spotted skunk.** Continuous closed season.

**571—108.7(481A) River otter trapping.**

**108.7(1) License requirements.** Each person who traps river otters shall have a valid fur harvester license and pay the habitat fee if normally required to have a license to trap.

**108.7(2) Areas open to trapping.** Trapping for river otters is open statewide.

**108.7(3) Quotas and seasonal bag limit.**

*a. Seasonal bag limit.* The seasonal bag limit is two river otters per trapper.

*b. Quotas.* The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is 400 statewide. The season shall end when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches 400. Trappers shall be allowed a 72-hour grace period after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters. River otters found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper's personal bag limit. River otters trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

**108.7(4) Season dates.** The season for trapping river otters opens on the same date as the trapping seasons described in 571—108.1(481A) and closes when the quota has been reached, as explained in this rule, or on January 31 of the following year, whichever occurs first.

**108.7(5) Reporting requirements.**

*a.* A trapper, including a landowner or tenant not required to have a fur harvester license, who traps a river otter must report the harvest to a DNR conservation officer within 24 hours. The trapper must arrange to receive a CITES tag or Iowa river otter harvest tag from the officer within 72 hours of the time the harvest is reported or before the river otter is skinned, whichever first occurs.

*b. Conservation officer reporting.* Upon receiving a telephone report from a trapper that a river otter has been legally taken, conservation officers will call the department's harvest reporting system. The number of river otters taken will be updated daily, and a message will be recorded on the department's telephone system. The number taken will be available 24 hours a day. Trappers may check the message daily to determine when the season closes and when the grace period begins and ends. The department will use all practical means to publicize these dates.

**108.7(6) Tagging requirements.** Every river otter that may legally be kept by a trapper must have a CITES tag or Iowa river otter harvest tag attached. Tags will be supplied by the conservation officer. The tag must remain with the pelt until the pelt is sold or used for other purposes that render it no longer available for sale. Persons displaying river otters as taxidermy mounts or as other decorative items must keep the tags in their possession as proof of legal harvest.

**571—108.8(481A) Accidental capture of a river otter or bobcat during a closed season.** A person who accidentally captures a river otter or bobcat during a closed season or after the person's individual bag limit has been reached shall not be penalized provided that:

1. The river otter or bobcat is captured during a legal trapping season or as part of a legal depredation control process; and

2. A conservation officer is contacted within 24 hours and the river otter or bobcat and all parts thereof are turned over to a conservation officer as soon as practical.

**581—108.9(481A) Trapping restrictions.** Trapping for all furbearers will be restricted as follows:

**108.9(1) Exposed bait.** No person shall set or maintain any leghold, body-clasping trap, or snare within 20 feet of exposed bait on land anywhere in the state or over water in the following areas:

*a.* Mississippi River corridor—Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Lee Counties.

*b.* Missouri River corridor—Those portions of Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont Counties west of Interstate 29.

*c.* Des Moines River corridor—Boone, Dallas, Polk, Marion, Mahaska, Wapello and Van Buren Counties.

Exposed bait means meat or viscera or any animal, bird, fish, amphibian, or reptile with or without skin, hide, or feathers visible to soaring birds.

**108.9(2) Trapping near beaver lodges and dens.** There will be no trapping within ten yards of active or inactive beaver lodges or dens in certain areas described as those portions of the Cedar River and Indian Creek floorplains enclosed by Highways 30, 151, Business 151 and I-380 in Linn County.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, and 481A.90.

These rules are based on the best biological data available as determined by research conducted by the department of natural resources.

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